

**Subject: *Why Biblical Doctrine Matters***

**Scripture: *1 Timothy 4:13-16***

Truth matters. Biblical truth matters most. One of the greatest problems of our time is the widespread ignorance of Biblical truth. For this reason it is the great challenge and opportunity for the church to preach and teach and train people to understand and live by Biblical truth or doctrine. Biblical doctrine is what the Bible teaches.

### **1. Biblical doctrine is foundational**

#### **A. Doctrine is the main purpose of Scripture**

All Scripture is supernatural in its origin. What we believe and what we teach doesn't originate with a pastor, a church, or a denomination. What we believe comes from God. Therefore all biblical doctrine is supernatural. It comes from God.

**2 Peter 1:21** *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

**2 Timothy 3:13-17**

Doctrine is the first of four things mentioned in verse 16. Sometimes people read the Bible and come away feeling empty because they expected to get a certain feeling or emotional lift from what they read. That doesn't always happen. The Bible wasn't designed to meet our emotional needs; it was designed to meet our spiritual needs. The Bible was given to instruct us and teach us what we need to know. The Bible was given to teach us what to believe and how to live.

#### **B. Doctrine is foundational for the church**

**1 Timothy 3:15** *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*  
**Acts 2:42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Just think what would happen if the church neglected biblical doctrine...We know what happens whenever biblical doctrine is neglected or dismissed...just look at the time before the Reformation. Some leaders in denominations and churches are saying that the modern church needs to get beyond doctrine. This is all wrong. The church needs to get back to sound doctrine.

#### **C. Doctrine is foundational for pastors and teachers**

The books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are called Pastoral Epistles because Paul wrote them to Timothy and Titus, who were pastors of local churches. If you were to read all three letters you would see the importance of Biblical doctrine for the pastor's life and the congregation he serves. Look at some of the verses in our text (vs. 13, 16).

**2 Timothy 1:13** *Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

**2 Timothy 2:2** *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

**Titus 2:1** *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.*

The pastor must preach and teach the Bible as it is to people as they are. He is just a messenger, not the editor. He is like a farmer sowing seeds of truth. He is to guide people in the truth. The pastor is a teacher of truth, not a story-teller or motivational speaker. Several years ago I found this quote in the biography of a famous pastor, and I adopted it as a main goal for my life and ministry:

“When I started in ministry, I committed myself to expository preaching, just explaining the Bible, because I knew that there was nothing I could say that was anywhere near as important as what God had to say. The real goal of ministry has always been to keep my own opinions out of it as much as possible. I never want to be guilty of giving people the illusion that they have heard from God when in fact they have only heard from me. When I step into the pulpit, the expectation is that I’m a messenger of God. I speak on His behalf, not my own.” -John MacArthur

#### D. Doctrine is foundational for the family

**Deuteronomy 6:4-7** *<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. <sup>6</sup> And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: <sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

**Proverbs 22:6** *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6 applies to the family and to the church. It is the responsibility and privilege of parents and the church to teach children what to believe and how to live. There is only one way a child should go—the right way, God’s way, the biblical way.

## 2. Biblical doctrine is practical

#### A. Doctrine protects us from false teaching

Some say doctrine is not practical and helpful; they say it’s actually harmful and dangerous because it divides people. Let’s look at what’s really dangerous—it is rejecting biblical doctrine and accepting lies.

**1 Timothy 4:1** *Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

Doctrine does divide. It divides light from darkness, right from wrong, and truth from error. It divides believers from unbelievers. One preacher used to say, “It’s better to be divided by the truth than to be united by error.

#### B. Doctrine helps us to know God better

Some say that doctrine is dull and impractical. Of course that’s ridiculous. What could be more exciting and practical than to know what God has revealed about Himself in Scripture?

A. W. Tozer: “The most important thing about us is what comes to mind when we think about God.” So the better we know God the more we will fear God, love Him, trust Him, and obey Him.

C. Doctrine equips us to serve God

Some say that doctrine gets in the way of evangelism and discipleship. That’s so wrong. Doctrine is at the heart of evangelism and discipleship.

**Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>19</sup> *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**Romans 10:17** *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Some say that doctrine is too hard to understand. It’s over the head of most people. That’s just not so. Doctrine is found on every page of the Bible, so that must mean that doctrine is for every person. A few people are called to be Bible scholars, but all of us are called to be Bible students.

**Hebrews 5:12-14** <sup>12</sup> *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. <sup>13</sup> For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

There are other practical benefits of biblical doctrine, and hopefully we can look at them in another message.